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*The Obvious Orient.* By ALBERT BUSHNELL HART. (New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1911. Pp. x, 369.)

These gleanings from a round-the-world year are light, vivacious, often rather superficial, but worth reading, as is anything that flows from the pen of so gifted and clever a scholar as Professor Hart. In its brisk, reporterial style the book bears witness to its newspaper origin in letters to the *Evening Transcript*. To his subject the writer brings a fresh, prehensile eye, and a scholar's instinct for significant facts. His terse sentences are full of information of a kind that eludes the ordinary globe-trotter.

At the same time, the Orient is a problem for the student of race psychology and social psychology rather than for the student of institutions, like the author. Thus he is puzzled by "Japanese contradictions," which are not contradictions at all when one penetrates the social history of the Japanese. He answers in the negative the query, "Will Japan and China be Westernized?" because he finds them appropriating, not Western civilization as a whole, but only such material and intellectual aids as will enable them to do without the foreigner. But the fact is, the real Westernization of the Orientals is chiefly a sub-conscious process, and to themselves they usually appear to be critically accepting from the West only that which they find useful. The silent influence of Western culture on the religious, philosophical and moral ideas that lie at the back of the Chinaman's head, has already been far greater than Professor Hart imagines, and is certain greatly to increase. When you analyze it down, there is nothing to keep the Oriental "Oriental" after his pattern of life and society has approximated to that of ours.

EDWARD A. ROSS.

*The International Relations of the Chinese Empire.* By HOSEA BALLOU MORSE. The Period of Conflict (1834-1860.) London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1910. Pp. xxxvii; 727).

This is the initial volume of a work intended ultimately to cover the field of China's diplomatic history from the abolition of the monopoly of the East India Company to the present time. The author, an American, with thirty-five years of distinguished service in the

Imperial Chinese Customs, largely under the late Sir Robert Hart, has already shown a deep and sympathetic insight into Chinese character as well as keen and scholarly investigation in his previous works, *Trade and Administration of the Chinese Empire* (1908) and *Chinese Gilds* (1909). The present volume gives abundant evidence of the same care in preparation as its predecessors; it is well documented, contains an excellent bibliography as well as numerous appendixes in which appear papers not easily accessible, and is enriched by several maps and charts admirably illustrating the narrative. The source materials used seem largely to have been the published government documents of Great Britain and the United States and the files of the Chinese Repository. Apparently little attention has been paid to French or Russian materials or to unpublished sources even in Great Britain. In this last respect the book compares unfavorably with the recent work in the same field by Mr. Bromley-Eames.

The present volume, which bears the sub-title "The Period of Conflict," contains a narrative of the events in which Great Britain was most interested: the Opium War, the Tai-Ping Rebellion, and the bombardment of the Taku forts in 1859. Much of the period covered has been admirably sketched by Mr. John W. Foster in his *American Diplomacy in the Orient* and more recently and fully by Mr. Bromley-Eames in his *English in China* (1909). Mr. Morse's book suffers in comparison with these from the point of view of style. He has laid "no undue stress on picturesque episodes, even though they might help to lighten the narrative." On the other hand, there is a wealth of detail which now and then seems to injure the general perspective. As the author states, he has intended knowingly "to omit none of those minor occurrences which, dull and uninteresting though they might be, were still important elements in moulding the opinions and guiding the actions of the principal actors of the scene."

Students of American history, who are familiar with the activities of Captain Charles Elliott, who was the British chargé in Texas, 1842-45, will be interested in following his earlier career as Superintendent of Trade in China, 1836-41. During much of this time Elliott was without adequate instructions. He dared to think for himself and in a difficult situation assumed trying responsibilities faithfully and well. Unfortunately he continued to think for himself after Palmerston had furnished him with instructions in which all contingencies were provided for. Elliott was transferred to the more restricted and probably less congenial post of chargé to Texas. His

successors in China, following his tactics and plans, achieved the success which his unauthorized independence had denied him.

Mr. Morse's point of view is quite judicial. He sees the moral evil of the opium traffic, but views it in the light of actual Chinese administration. War came about when it did because the Chinese then precipitated a crisis by a vigorous campaign against opium. The war was not fought to uphold the opium trade: it was but the beginning of a struggle which, lasting for twenty years, ultimately decided the national and commercial relations which were to exist between the East and the West.

JESSE S. REEVES.

*Reminiscences of the Geneva Tribunal of Arbitration.* 1872.

*The Alabama Claims.* By FRANK WARREN HACKETT. (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1911. Pp. xvi, 450).

Mr. Hackett has written an extremely readable book. As secretary to Caleb Cushing, the senior counsel for the United States at Geneva, he had abundant opportunity for meeting and observing the many interesting personalities engaged in the great arbitration. The sketches which he draws of the principal characters in the dramatic scenes at Geneva do not essentially modify one's earlier impressions of these men. Cockburn does not appear to much better advantage after forty years than he did in the pages of Cushing's book, written soon after the event. Bancroft Davis is made the central figure, and Mr. Hackett's praiseful description of the character and services of the American agent is illuminating and valuable. Cushing's ability, zeal, and industry are emphasized. "His rank as a lawyer was high. A very learned man, he was yet not a great lawyer, in the sense that Marshall and Curtis and Black were great lawyers" (p. 78). "But with all his ability and learning, Cushing was not regarded by those who knew him intimately as possessed of strong moral convictions" (p. 231). Considering the author's intimate association with the senior counsel, this may be taken as a mature and deliberate judgment upon the man.

While the author has drawn upon the archives of the Department of State for many of his facts and inferences, the book contains little, aside from personal impressions, that may not be found in the works